



APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
Majority Caucus

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AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002 Conference Report

SUMMARY

The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies appropriations bill from the committee on conference (H.R. 2330, H. Rept. 107-275) provides \$16.018 billion in budget authority [BA] and \$16.216 billion in outlays for fiscal year 2002. As agreed to, the conference report exceeds the appropriate 302(b) allocation and violates the Congressional Budget Act. Nevertheless, pursuant to the bipartisan agreement between

the Congress and the administration, the House Budget Committee has reported a bill (H.R. 3084) increasing the appropriate levels in the budget resolution (H. Con. Res. 83) and the discretionary spending limits established in the Deficit Control Act. Enactment of this legislation will allow the Committee on Appropriations to revise its subcommittee allocations and, thus, ensure that the bill is in compliance with the budget resolution as revised.

Agriculture Appropriations Conference Report (fiscal years; millions of dollars)				
	2001 Enacted	Administration 2002 Request	House Passed	Conference
Budget Authority	15,739	15,396	15,668	16,018
Outlays	15,370	15,754	15,978	16,216

DISCUSSION

The conference report provides an increase of \$622 million in BA above the President's request, and \$350 million in BA above the amount passed by the House. Of the total BA increase above the House-passed level, \$211 million is for the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and children [WIC]. Agriculture program spending is increased above the House-passed bill by a net of \$114 million, with the added funding going to buildings (\$50 million), State cooperative research (\$35 million),

and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (\$33 million). Funding for rural development programs is increased by \$40 million for the rural community advancement program and \$44 million for the distance learning and telemedicine program.

The conference report includes \$75 million in BA and \$71 million in outlays for market loss assistance payments for apple producers. Although this provision is not subject to

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annual appropriations, it is included in the overall cost of the bill. Significantly, this provision was included as an emergency requirement in the House-reported measure, but, at the request of the Budget Committee Chairman, the emergency designation was removed by the rule prior to consideration of the bill by the House.

Offsets to discretionary spending are achieved through limitations on the activities of mandatory programs. These limitations total \$543 million in BA and \$80 million in

outlays. These limitations have been used in previous years, and affect the Food Stamp Program, the Fund for Rural America, the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems, and the Conservation Farm Option Program. All were included in the House-passed bill, except \$90 million in BA savings from the Food Stamp Program.

The table below provides a comparison, by program area, of the amount provided in the conference agreement and the House-passed bill.

Discretionary Spending in the Agriculture Appropriations Conference Report (fiscal year 2002; in millions of dollars)						
	House Passed		Conference		Difference	
	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays
Agriculture Programs	5,591	5,514	5,705	5,559	114	45
Conservation Programs	909	1,008	963	1,012	54	4
Rural Development Programs	2,490	2,522	2,576	2,537	86	15
Domestic Food Programs	4,581	4,567	4,779	4,748	198	181
Foreign Assistance Programs	1,107	1,046	1,124	1,054	17	8
Related Agencies and FDA	1,305	1,263	1,300	1,260	-5	-3
General Provisions	-315	58	-429	46	-114	-12

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